
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 437

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF NATUREOPATHY.

SUMMARY:

This bill expands the definition of naturopathy and its scope of practice to specifically include, among other things, the science, art, and practice of healing that comprises diagnosing, preventing, and treating diseases and optimizing health by stimulating and supporting the body's natural healing processes. It eliminates the requirement that the natural healing methods be recognized by the Council of Natureopathic Medical Education. By law, and unchanged by the bill, these methods must be approved by the State Board of Natureopathic Examiners, with the consent of the public health commissioner.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014.

NATUROPATHY

The bill expands the scope of naturopathic practice to include:

1. ordering diagnostic tests and other diagnostic procedures;
2. ordering medical devices, including continuous glucose monitors, glucose meters and test strips, barrier contraceptives, and durable medical equipment;
3. removing ear wax and foreign bodies from the ear, nose and skin;
4. shaving corns and calluses;
5. spirometry (i.e., breath and lung capacity analysis);
6. tuberculosis testing;

7. vaccine administration; and
8. venipuncture for blood testing and minor wound repair, including suturing.

By law, unchanged by the bill, naturopathic practitioners can conduct counseling; offer treatment by natural substances; and perform several mechanical therapies, including orthopedic gymnastics and hydrotherapy.

BACKGROUND

Legislative History

The Senate referred the original bill (File 520) to the Appropriations Committee, which favorably reported a substitute that eliminates several provisions relating to the licensure of genetic counselors.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/27/2014)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 47 Nay 1 (04/24/2014)